

# Congenital Nevus Birthmark

## FACTS:

- Congenital nevi are common birthmarks.
- The size of the nevus may vary from a small one-inch mark to a giant birthmark covering half of the body or more
- Nevi vary greatly in size, shape, texture and hairiness. The color can vary from light brown to nearly black. Some have fine downy hair; many have long, thick, darker, coarser or curlier hair.
- A child may have one giant nevus and many small nevi or only small scattered nevi.
- There is no known cause and therefore no way to prevent these birthmarks.



There is no known cause of congenital nevi.



Children with nevi are normal little children needing love.

# Congenital Nevus Birthmark

## TREATMENT:

- There is risk of skin cancer developing in the mole. The risk is higher during the time when the body is maturing.
- It is important to look closely at congenital moles on a regular basis. Photographs of the nevus at regular intervals can help the caregiver note changes.
- Early signs of skin cancer include the development of irregular borders, changes in color and a change in the surface of the mole. When changes are noted, it is important to consult with a doctor.
- Treatment of nevi depends on size, location, estimated risk for skin cancer and expected benefit in appearance.



**Nevi are often removed with surgery.**

### Giant Congenital Nevi:

- Babies with giant congenital moles have an increased risk of developing skin cancers.
- Many of these skin cancers will occur during the first ten years of life.
- It is important for a child to be evaluated by a doctor if a giant congenital nevus is present.



**Children with nevi are normal children in every other way.**